



Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration

funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The health of Great Lakes habitats and wildlife depends upon the protection and restoration of ecosystems. A multitude of threats affect the health of Great Lakes habitats and wildlife, and many opportunities exist to protect and restore critical elements of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Habitat Restoration and Partnerships

NOAA's Restoration Center in the Great Lakes provides financial and technical assistance to remove dams and barriers, construct fish passage, clean up marine debris, restore coastal wetlands, and remove invasive species in Great Lakes Areas of Concern. In addition, NOAA's Restoration Center also supports partnerships that allow for a targeted approach to address priority projects in Great Lakes Areas of Concern including design and engineering of habitat restoration projects, on-the-ground restoration work, project evaluation to inform future restoration efforts, and climate change expertise to inform restoration planning and implementation.



Black River, Lorain, OH. Four GLRI-funded projects in the Black River Area of Concern include the construction of 5000+ linear ft. of fish habitat shelves, approximately 1500 ft. of riverbank stabilization and restoration, the removal of 45,000 cubic yards of steel slag, the restoration of 2.3 acres of riparian habitat, the engineering and design of additional in-stream and bank restoration, and the treatment of invasive species.

Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program

NOAA's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) preserves and protects habitats with exceptional ecological, historical, and recreational value. CELCP was established in 2002 as a nationwide program to assist local and state agencies with protecting and conserving important coastal and estuarine habitats. GLRI funding has enabled CELCP to expand protection of vital Great Lakes coastal and estuarine habitat. To date, 2420 acres of pristine Great Lakes coastal land has been permanently protected through the GLRI's supplemental funding to CELCP.

AOC Land Acquisition Project

The Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOC) Land Acquisition Project is modeled after the CELCP program. However, instead of solely focusing on ecologically intact habitat, the AOC Land Acquisition Project also targets areas that are high priority for habitat restoration. The Land Acquisition Project provides GLRI funds so that state and local agencies can purchase land in AOCs. Acquiring damaged habitat is the first step in establishing a pipeline of GLRI-supported restoration projects, which specifically work to remove habitat-related beneficial use impairments (BUIs).



Mashek Creek Property Protection.

NOAA and the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program are working together to support the permanent protection of the 26.87 acre Mashek Creek property.

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